

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 9, and 10 are pending in this case. Claims 4, 9, and 10 are amended and Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11 are canceled by the present amendment. The amendments to Claims 4, 9, and 10 are made to put Claims 4, 9, and 10 in independent form. Thus, no new matter is added.

Further, the present response is properly filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1).

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winther, et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0141382, herein “Winther”) in view of Benayoun, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,950,429, herein “Benayoun”), further in view of Walters, et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0176131, herein “Walters”); Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winther in view of Benayoun and Walters, further in view of Beshai, et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0131363, herein “Beshai”); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winther in view of Benayoun, Walters, and Beshai, further in view of Koyanagi, et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0013067, herein “Koyanagi”); Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Winther in view of Benayoun, Walters, and Beshai, further in view of Colley, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,650,644, herein “Colley”); and Claims 4, 9, and 10 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability for Claims 4, 9, and 10.

As suggested by the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4, 9, and 10 are rewritten in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of Claims 1 and 3 into Claims 4 and 9 and incorporating the subject matter of Claim 5 into Claim 10.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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